

MRS. GIBSON'S TESTIMONY RIDICULED

Couldn't Identify Slayers in Flash, Case Declares

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band stung to desperation by the unfaithfulness of his wife. He openly suggested that Mills might have wielded the gun which killed the minister and the chorister.

Both Senator Case and Mr. McCarter played the Mirror and the man who had such a large hand in bringing on the renewed investigation which preceded the present trial. The newspaper was characterized as a self-vested grand jury, Payne as the stage manager of Mrs. Gibson's dramatic appearance in court.

Jury May Get Case Tomorrow

Indications this afternoon are that the case will be given to the jury late tomorrow. Special Prosecutor Simpson is expected to employ most of the day in presenting the state's side, and it is believed Justice Parker will at once deliver his charge.

The defendants and the spectators seem to look upon the finish as little more than a mere formality—just something that must be gone through with to carry out the letter of the law. Somerville, from one end to another, is confident of an acquittal, and this feeling was reflected in the bearing of the three defendants as they entered court today.

McCarter, in resuming his summation when the session got under way, said Senator Case would handle Jane Gibson's testimony.

"I hope you gentlemen weren't fooled by that theatrical display," he said. "Was any doctor brought here to say she was really ill? A doctor on one side, a uniformed nurse on the other," McCarter said, referring to the "pig woman's" testifying from a sick-bed.

"When this woman was to be subjected to the critical analysis of a lawyer she collapsed," he thundered.

"This scene was prepared under the supervision of Philip A. Payne.



MRS. FRANCES S. HALL

I stigmatize the thing as a humbug, a scene to make you think she was at death's door and to embarrass a lawyer in cross-examination."

McCarter then dropped the "pig woman" and turned to a motive for the crime.

No Proof Mrs. Hall Knew

"The alleged motive for this crime," he said, "is the alleged fact that Mrs. Hall and her brothers had knowledge of the illicit relations between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills.

"Mr. Simpson had promised to prove that Mrs. Hall had knowledge of this. He struggled in vain to prove it, and I challenge him to show one word in these 5,000 pages of testimony that would indicate it. "I want you to read Mr. Hall's letters.

"I am not here to show that anybody committed this crime. But if the state struggled for one



JUDGE CLEARY

month to pin the blame of this crime on Mrs. Hall, what are you going to do with Jimmie Mills?

"If knowledge of this crime is important then what are you going to do with Jimmie Mills, a husband whose wife for two years had occupied the attic room and refused to sleep with him, who heard repeatedly, 'I care more for Dr. Hall's little finger than all your body'?

"A husband who was taunted by his wife's relatives that when Charlotte finished school his wife would go to Japan with Mr. Hall. "A husband who the night before the murder had read the love letters to his wife.

"Where was Jimmie Mills that night? Alone! He did not have Louise Geist to put up the shutters or William in his bedroom.

"Jimmie Mills, smarting with the quarrel of that night, is alone. He goes out, no one backs him as to where he was or where he went. He got back about half past ten. No one backs him up. No one saw him, except this Charlotte."

The old lawyer's voice was solemn as he did everything but accuse the little sexton of the murders.

Pursued Even Tenor

"Mr. Simpson had asked Mrs. Hall if she rang up the hospitals. Did James Mills call the hospitals? Did he telephone his sisters? He did not. He pursued the even tenor of his ways.

"I am not here to vindicate or scold that slain couple; they have their own account with their Creator. I am here, however, to question the innocence of this husband who sold to a newspaper this letter showing her an address for a filthy \$500.

Mills was not in court as McCarter pointed the finger of guilt at him. Neither was Charlotte, his daughter. The 20-year-old girl collapsed in the court house Tuesday, and has kept to her hotel room here since that time.

"Pig Woman" Visited Mills

"A week after the tragedy," the defense lawyer went on, "Jane Gibson visited the Mills house, spent an evening there. After that she looms as a witness, and the attempt is made to pin the murders on the Hall family."

McCarter then switched to an appeal to local pride.

"The reputation of Somerset county has been impugned. Azariah Beekman is said to have been bribed. Detectives Totten and David are said to have been corrupted. The grand jury has been questioned.

"Senator Simpson, Inspector Underwood, Capt. Walsh, Lieut. Cieciuch and Sergeant Burke, captured your town last August. Since then this strange procession led by the 'Little Corporal,' have marched daily through your streets. "I recall an old, fashionable hymn at Princeton:—

"See the mighty host advancing, atan at their head!"

"What a galaxy of witnesses for

this Coxey's army to present! What a galaxy of witnesses to attack this family!

"Upon this kind of evidence, a gentle lady is taken at midnight from her home and thrust into a common jail, four years after the crime."

McCarter once again attacked Payne, holding the newspaper editor responsible for the midnight arrest.

"If Mr. Payne had thought this gang of witnesses amounted to anything, could he not have waited until next day?" the defense lawyer shouted. "Need he go to her house at midnight, with photographers and reporters?"

"On this kind of evidence Henry Carpenter, now in jail, is denied a trial.

Witnesses Cursed, He Says

"A group of witnesses, ordinary men like you and me, are huddled together in a court house and told by these men:

"You are liars!"

The old lawyer's voice rose to a scream as he repeated the curses he says state detectives heaped on witnesses.

"On this kind of evidence Henry Stevens, who would not harm a bird, is dragged from his home in Lavallette to the jail here.

"This raucous prosecutor, Simpson, dignified by the title of assistant state's attorney general, has intimated that Mrs. Hall, on the night of the tragedy, was having a liaison with a colored man."

McCarter's voice trembled as he charged that Simpson also had accused Mrs. Hall's mother of a liaison with a colored man, in inferring that Willie Stevens was a mulatto. The clergyman's widow bowed her head as her lawyer defended her mother.

Thanks God He's Old

"I have been called an old man," McCarter went on. "I have practiced law forty-four years; my father did before me. I think I represent the old-fashioned New Jersey bar. Thank God, I'm old.

"If the circulation of a newspaper, published in another state, a paper which does not hesitate to traffic in the reputation and lives of persons, and if such a raid as they conducted is to receive the open approval of a governor of New Jersey—and if, with the patrimony of that family wasted, deprived of their liberty and even their death sought, when this high court is turned into a police court, when crowds come to see how this lady, falsely accused, will act on the witness stand—"

The old lawyer's voice broke. He did not conclude his sentence. The feeling of the defense counsel against the paper which has persecuted him was never better demonstrated.

Wonders Brain Didn't Snap

"Did Mrs. Hall meet an emergency when on Saturday the news of her husband's death was brought her? Did her family and advisers do right when telling her not to read the papers; that her husband's letters might be kept from her?"

"I admire the woman who, until the actual facts were brought here, admired and respected the man she had married eleven years before.

"It is one thing for this gentle



Barbara Tough



Dr. Otto Schultze

and refined Christian lady to find the clerical husband she had loved is dead. Then to find that he was human and had loved not wisely but too well.

"Then to be accused with her brothers of his murder. It is a



JANE GIBSON

wonder to me that her brain or body has not snapped.

"It is up to you to end this persecution, to show that you, unlike this motley crowd, are not seeking wealth or political ascendancy under the guise of ferreting out crime."

McCarter completed his summation and the map of De Russeys Lane was taken up in preparation for Senator Case's attack on Mrs. Gibson's testimony.

Calls Prosecution Nasty

Senator Case:—

"Gentlemen of the jury, we now come to a time that has long been sought by these defendants. We now come to a determination of this case by a jury."

Case's voice was low pitched and solemn.

"The state of New Jersey against Mrs. Frances S. Hall and Henry and William Stevens!

"I wonder if that is a fact? If it is the state of New Jersey? I have never found the state of New Jersey to be nasty, unfair or vindictive, and yet this prosecution has been nasty. It has been unfair and vindictive.

"I wonder, therefore, if some other name ought not to be substituted for the name of the state of New Jersey.

"For this man (Simpson), who has a quick mind—and I think I have never seen a quicker one—connects up a dead dog with the body of a dead man. I say that is unfair," Case continued, as he referred to how the prosecutor in his examination of an expert asked what effect the atmosphere would have on a dog's body.

"I say that the prosecution was unfair. I say that it was derogatory to the rights of these defendants to present the case in this helter-skelter manner. It may have been intentional.

"Do we know yet—do you know yet just how this thing was done? I don't.

How Case Was Begun

"The case began, not by showing the commission of a crime, but by putting on Mr. and Mrs. Dickson to show that William Stevens, they say, was in North Plainfield.

"Had the case been presented in an orderly way, it would not have been necessary to bring Mrs. Gibson here on a hospital bed.

"She was here the early days of the trial. She could have taken the stand. Perhaps, though, it was Simpson's intention to turn this court into a hospital.

"Why didn't the state bring in Raymond Schneider and Pearl Bahmer, who found the bodies? I do not know where Pearl Bahmer is, but Schneider is working in a tire shop in New Brunswick.

Dr. Hall's Pockets Rifled

"There are two points to the state's case—the calling card and the 'pig woman' incident.

"The state contends that William Stevens placed the card at Dr. Hall's feet. I'll tell you how that card got there.

"Raymond Schneider rifled Dr. Hall's pockets. Finding them there, he sought what was of value on their persons. He took the watch,

Bushes Between Her and Famous Crabapple Tree

he took the money, he took the card case.

"Seizing the case, Schneider dropped the cards. Where they lit, they stayed.

"Garrigan, a policeman, says he saw a man named Cardinal pick up the case. Why didn't the state produce Cardinal? Garrigan is the only man who says the card was at Dr. Hall's heel."

Case was not proving the masterful orator, that McCarter showed himself to be, but the jury hung on his every word.

The Senator is the idol of Somerset county, the pride of the community in which he lives. That is why Case is closing for the defense. He, to the jury, is "one of our own kind."

"Mr. Totten's identification of this card—the only identification there is—was based on the fact that there were fly specks on the card.

"He is the only man who ties up S-17 with the card found at Dr. Hall's feet.

Identification Remote

"There is not much individuality about fly specks. One fly speck is much like another. The identification is remote. These other cards bear fly specks.

"They were all scattered on the ground by Schneider as he rifled Dr. Hall's pockets.

"That is why Schneider was not brought here. We could prove, by cross-examination, that Schneider did this.

"When this case began Simpson would not put in a map. We offered one; he declined it.

"He would not allow a map, because we would have made Jane Gibson use it. She would have been confused and admitted that she told stories of standing in two different spots in the lane.

"Why aren't we trying Henry Carpenter with these defendants? Because we might have produced



WILLIE STEVENS

alibi witnesses who would have made it unlikely that he was there and therefore unlikely that the other defendants were near De Russeys Lane.

Wants to Harass Them

"Why are we not also trying these people for the murder of Dr. Hall as well as Mrs. Mills? Because the state wants to retain something with which to harass these men and that woman, to intimidate them with threats of another trial."

Case was in his element as he made his appeal to local pride, as he criticized the "insidious propaganda" against Somerset county and the placing of Hudson county in control.

"What necessity is there that Jersey City should supplant Somerville?" he asked; "that Hudson county should supplant Somerset county? Why should Jersey City and its cohorts be made supreme?"

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